(b) whether it is a fact that difficulty is being faced in adopting such children due to legal complexities;

(c) whether there is any proposal to reconsider the laws regarding adoption; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Hindus, Buddhists, Jains and Sikhs can adopt under the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1856. The Guardianship and Wards Act, 1890 is used for foreign prospective adoptive parents in the case of inter-country adoptions and non-Hindus in the case of domestic adoptions. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2006 also provides for the adoption of orphan, abandoned and surrendered children. As per Section 41 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2006 there is no restriction in adoption on account of sex, religion or caste of the child or prospective parents. Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA)—an autonomous body under this Ministry, has issued Guidelines for laying down the procedure for adoption. These Guidelines are reviewed from time to time to make the process of adoption simpler and faster.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Running of orphanages

†*249. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that both registered and unregistered organizations are running orphanages;

(b) whether certain cases of supplying children for sexual exploitation by the people running these orphanages have come to the notice of Government; and

(c) if so, the measures being taken by Government to prevent such incidents and for the safety of children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The orphanages are set up and run by the State Governments by themselves or in association with voluntary organizations. The supervision, control and monitoring of orphanages are the responsibility of the respective State Government/UT Administrations. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 and its Amendment Act, 2006 provide for regulation, monitoring, care, protection and treatment of children in need of care and protection as well as children in conflict with law. The Ministry of Women and Child Development maintains information pertaining only to those orphanages which are run by adoption agencies and recognized by the Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA). Details are available on CARA's website—*www.adoptionindia.nic.in.*

(b) No incidence has come to the notice of the Ministry regarding supply of children for sexual exploitation.

(c) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.